(b) if so, whether any firm date has been fixed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) There are at present no plans for a summit meeting between Prime Minister and the Sri Lankan President.

(b) Does not arise.

Issue of Visas to Israeli Davis Cup Players

407. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue visas to Israeli players so that Israel can play Davis Cub Lawn Tennis match against India in India;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (c) The venue for the Quarter Final of Davis Cup tie between India and Israel has not yet been decided.

Fighting between Sri Lankan Security Agencies and Tamil Militant Group

408. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 thousand people have fled from their homes and taken shelter in temples and churches in Sri Lanka's Northern Jaffna Peninsula following intensified fighting between the security forces and Tamil militant groups; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in the light of the latest development in Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government has received reports that thousands have been displaced as a result of recent events in the Jaffna Peninsula. It is, however, not possible to give an exact figure.

(b) Government has been closely monitoring developments in Sri Lanka. Government is also in touch with all parties on the need to bring fighting to an end and to resume negotiations for a political settlement.

Felling of forests

409. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:
SHRI K. MOHANAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased state:

(a) whether Government are aware of illegal felling of forests trees all over the country and especially in Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the cutting and smuggling of trees has been going on with the collusion of officials of the forest and Revenue Department;

(c) what is the estimated loss of trees as a result thereof during the last three years; and